

CHEILOTHELA VAGINATA AND SYRRHOPODON STEYERMARKII

TWO NEW MOSS SPECIES FROM VENEZUELA

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Examination of recent Venezuelan collections has revealed the following two very distinctive species of mosses.

Cheilothela vaginata H.Robinson, sp. nov. (Figs. 1-3).

Planta dioica? dense caespitosa pallide viridis inferne sordida. Caules usque ad 4 cm longi simplices vel parce ramosi. Folia caulina e basi late oblonga vaginata superne abrupte anguste linearia erecto-patentia ca. 2.5 mm longa 0.8 mm lata, margine minute crenulata erecta; nervis prope basin 65μ latis, ad apicem subulatis indistincte; cellulis basilaribus angustis $8-12\mu$ latis ad $40-95\mu$ longis laevibus pellucidis, mediis et superioribus bistratos quadratis $7 \times 7-14\mu$ vel brevioribus oblongis ad extrema amba papillosis.

Venezuela. Estado Mérida: a 2 kms de la Ciudad de Mérida, sobre rocas, sitio húmedo. elev. 2,500 m, 22 Feb. 1971, Nora Faría 1 (US, holotype; D.Griffin, isotype).

The bistratose lamina and the protruding cell ends of the leaf relate the new species to the common Cheilothela chilensis (Mont.) Broth. of the Dominican Republic, the Andes south to Chile and of New Zealand and Kerguelen. The leaf base of the new species is entirely different in being broadly vaginate and the plant has a superficial resemblance to Dicranella vaginata (Hook.) Card.

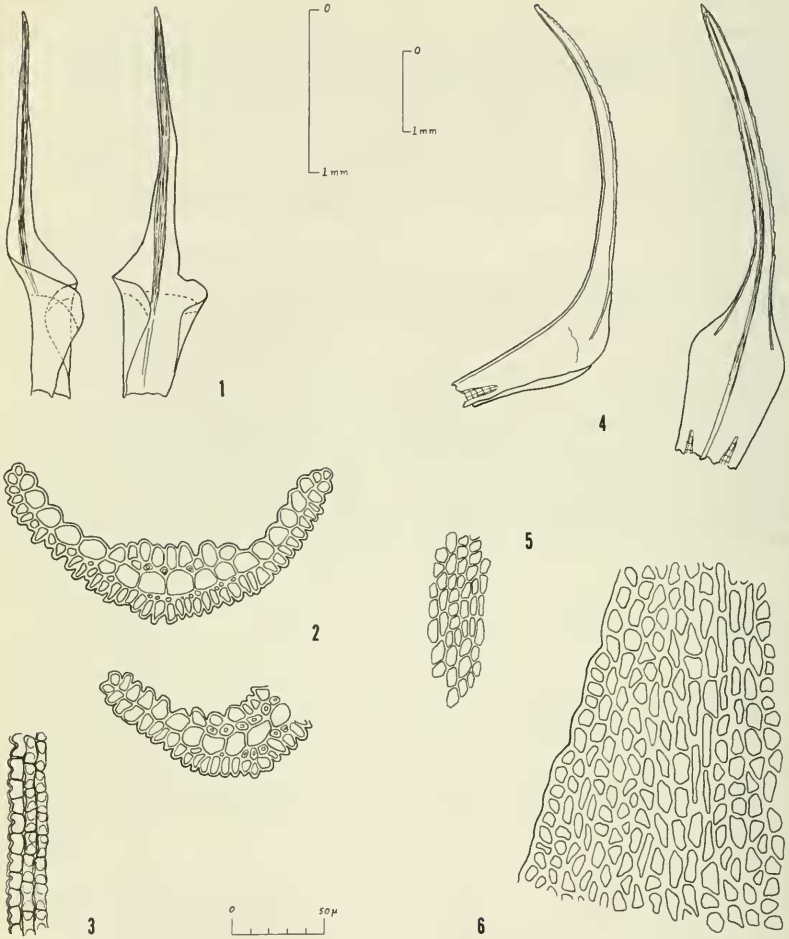
Syrrhopodon steyermarkii H.Robinson, sp. nov. (Figs. 4-6).

Planta dioica? laxe caespitosa sordide viridis inferne fulvescens. Caules usque ad 8 cm longi simplices vel parce ramosi. Folia caulina e basi late ovata vaginata superne sensim lineari-lanceolata erecto-patentia 6-7 mm longa ca. 1.3 mm lata, margine superne multistratosa argute duploserrata erecta; nervis prope basin ca. 100μ latis, superne percurrentibus laevibus; cellulis cancellinarum paucis ca. 15μ latis $35-40\mu$ longis; cellulis basilaribus plerumque rhomboideis vel oblongis $7-12\mu$ latis $12-50\mu$ longis flavorubrescentibus, parietibus nodulosis; cellulis superioribus quadratis vel breviter oblongis ca. 6μ latis $5-14\mu$ longis laevibus; cellulis marginalibus exterioribus quadratis, interioribus elongatis in basi intramarginaliter decurrentibus.

Venezuela. Territoria Federal Amazonas: Cerro Yapaçana, alrededores del campamento a lo largo del río en las faldas en la parte suroeste, Lat. $3^{\circ} 45' N$, Long. $66^{\circ} 45' W$. altura: 825 metros, 4 May 1970, J.A.Steyermark 103154 (US, holotype; VEN, isotype).

The new species of Syrrhopodon is of that group with very reduced cancellinae and mostly brownish to reddish leaf bases. The species is most obviously distinctive in the thickened margins which are continued for a distance intramarginally at the lower end.

In the same series of collections from the Guayana Highland region there is a specimen of perhaps the most closely related species, Syrrhopodon rupestris Mitt. (Territorio Amazonas, a lo largo de río Yatua, Cerro Araucaua, on bluffs at base of igneous outcrop, 11-12 April 1970, J. A. Steyermark 102544). The specimen has been compared with a portion of the type material (Brazil, Spruce 14) and agrees in all respects including habitat. The new specimen is apparently only the second known collection of the species and the first from within the boundaries of Venezuela. Both the foregoing species appear quite distinct from the more widely distributed S. rigidus Hook. & Grev. which has much shorter leaves and shorter stems with less distinct leaf bases.



Figs. 1-6. Venezuelan mosses. 1-3. *Cheilothela vaginata*. 1. Leaves. 2. Leaf cross-sections. 3. Upper marginal cells of leaf. 4-6. *Syrrhopodon steyermarkii*. 4. Leaves. 5. Upper leaf cells. 6. Leaf margin at top of sheathing base.